



James G. Neeley
Commissioner

Governor Phil Bredesen appointed James G. Neeley Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development when he took office in 2002. Since that time Neeley has been a critical player in the recently passed legislation to reform the Workers' Compensation program. This new law could save Tennessee businesses an estimated \$30 million per year and encourage new business investment in the state.

Neeley is also a key player in the Governor's Jobs Cabinet. He traveled across the state with Governor Bredesen for a series of roundtable meetings with local business, government and workers to develop ways to bring new business to Tennessee.

In 1999, Neeley was instrumental in creating state legislation that merged the department of Employment Security and the department of Labor. At that time Neeley served as Planning Committee Chairman of Tennessee's Workforce Development Board, composed of business, labor, state and local government representatives.

In 2004, Neeley won the prestigious Eagle Award from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. The Award honors individuals who soar to new heights in their efforts to serve employers and workers in the United States.

In 2005, Neeley was honored with another prestigious award nominated by the Tennessee Department of Education. He received the Distinguished Service Individual Award from the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. Neeley received the award for his decades of service to improve opportunities for all Tennesseans including his service on the executive committee for Education Edge. He was instrumental in securing a \$30 million National School-to-Work Opportunities Grant for Tennessee. Since 2003 when he was appointed as Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Neeley has awarded more than 50 companies close to \$1.5 million in Incumbent Worker Training grants to upgrade skills and training opportunities for their employees.

Prior to his service with the state, Neeley worked for the AFL-CIO. Throughout his career he has served on various state, federal, local and regional boards and commissions. Commissioner Neeley resides in Huntingdon, Tennessee, with his wife, Rachel. He enjoys spending time with his granddaughters, Neeley and Mary Catherine, and their parents, Hope and Michael Turner.